

GERMANS PREPARE FOR NEW ADVANCE TOWARDS VERDUN

Heavy Fire of French Artillery Has Prevented Teutons from Launching Offensives at Several Points.

NOTABLE GERMAN GAINS

Advance East of Verdun Extends over Front of Twelve Miles—Berlin Claims 228 Officers and 16,575 Men Taken Prisoners with War Material.

London, Feb. 25.—With the lessening of the activity of the contending forces at the north of Verdun, the French in the Woerthe region east of Verdun are using their artillery to break up German preparations for further advances toward the fortress. At various points the fire of the French guns has prevented the Germans from launching offensives.

In the Vosges mountains there has also been great artillery activity by the French near Senones and Ban de Sapt, while near Seppois the Germans have been driven out of trenches they had previously taken. In the Champagne German fortified works in the region of L'Hill 193 have been battered by the French guns and the center of a mine exploded by the Germans was occupied by the French.

The Germans have added several additional points to their terrain in the fighting about Verdun, having been enabled to construct trenches on the slopes north of the Cote du Poivre and to capture an armored work northwest of Bouzonville and have taken the towns of Mandreuilles and Champey, 12 miles southeast of Verdun.

In this drive to the east of Verdun the advance of the Germans has extended over a front of virtually 12 miles from Digne to Champey.

Berlin reports that thus far they have taken prisoners, 165,000 men and a large number of guns, machine guns and much war material.

There has been considerable artillery activity and fighting in the air between battalions of German and British aviators along the British front in France and Belgium.

In the Belgian region of Russia the Russians have driven the Germans back and advanced their line, and put down under heavy fire an attempt at a counter attack.

Details are lacking concerning the disaster to the French auxiliary cruiser Provence, which has been lost in the Mediterranean. While the French ministry of marine estimates the number of survivors at 500 no estimate is made of the casualties.

DEBATE IN MORRISVILLE.

E. F. Hanson Leaves Platform without "Good Night" After Rev. Baker's Speech.

Morrisville, Feb. 25.—Edgar F. Hanson of Belfast, Me., met the Rev. Walter E. Baker to-night in debate at a local option rally in the town hall. The first half hour was taken up by Mr. Hanson, who told of the situation in Maine. The Rev. Baker said that the matter was a problem for Vermont to deal with, not Maine. The mayor of Belfast had much to say of conditions in Kansas and referred to a letter from a man in Topeka, Kan., whose name he could not mention and whose letter he read in the debate at Morrisville Sunday night. Mr. Baker then read an article in the Outlook written by the Governor of Kansas and resolutions passed by the State Legislature of Kansas sustaining the prohibition law now in force there. In closing Mr. Hanson, who had been passing his letter, papers, etc., through the audience, left the platform after Mr. Baker's speech without his customary good night.

RUTLAND MAN MIXED UP WITH RUSSIAN SHELLS

State One for a Souvenir and Was Sentenced by Court.

Rutland, Feb. 25.—William Planagan, a Russian who came here a few weeks ago from Springfield, to work for the R. P. Patch Manufacturing company in the manufacture of shrapnel shells for the Russian government under sub-contract of a Canadian concern, pleaded guilty today in city court to petit larceny, the theft being a peculiar one.

The Patch company missed several of the nearly finished shells which were worth about \$10 each. The heads of the concern determined to put a stop to the stealing and investigation led to the belief that Planagan was among the guilty persons. A search warrant was issued and a shell was found lying in plain sight on a table in Planagan's room. He was out of town at the time, but reported in city court today.

Judge P. G. Swinerton gave him a month in jail. Sentence was suspended for a year, however, after Planagan had been given a sharp reprimand and had explained that he intended to do nothing wrong, merely wanting a war souvenir.

PENN. R. R.'S NET INCOME FOR 1915, \$12,125,322

Philadelphia, Feb. 25.—The total operating revenues of the Pennsylvania Railroad company for 1915 were \$98,828,179, an increase of five per cent, compared with last year but smaller than in 1913, according to the annual report of the board of directors made public to-night. Operating income aggregated \$36,500,924, an increase of 31.12 per cent, compared with 1914 and 18 per cent, compared with 1913. The net income for 1915 amounted to \$12,125,322, an increase of \$3,315,577 compared with the previous year. Out of the net income appropriations were made to sinking and other reserve funds, cash dividends aggregating six per cent, on the capital stock were paid and extensive additions and betterments were provided. Operating expenses of \$112,708,599 showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent, as compared with 1914.

PRESIDENT WILSON DARES CONGRESS TO COME OUT IN OPEN

Decides He Cannot Proceed with German Submarine Negotiations While Dissension of Legislators Weakens His Position Before the World—Asks House Committee on Rules to Urge An Early Vote Upon Resolutions with Regard to Travel on Armed Merchantmen.

Washington, Feb. 25.—President Wilson decided today that he cannot proceed with the German submarine negotiations while dissension in Congress weakens his position before the world, so he called for a show down on the pending proposals to warn Americans off merchant ships of the European belligerents armed for defense.

Making clear that he considers the President, and not Congress, charged with the conduct of foreign relations of the United States, he wrote a letter to Representative Ford, acting chairman of the House rules committee, asking him to bring the question of travel on armed merchant ships before the House for full discussion and a vote. Later he summoned Senator Stone and Representative Flood, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, and Senator Kern, chairman of the Senate rules committee, to the White House to-morrow morning at which he will request that one of the various pending resolutions be acted on in both houses.

Administration leaders, working steadily for the last week strengthening their lines and seeking on the support of the resolution, now are sure of their position that they plan to end all agitation with a vote of confidence in the President.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

The President's letter to Mr. Ford, the signal that the administration was ready to give Germany a demonstration of unity, follows:

"My Dear Mr. Ford: I am glad to learn that Mr. Henry, the chairman of the committee on rules, is about in Texas. I take the liberty of calling your attention, as ranking member of the committee, to a matter of grave concern to the country which can, I believe, be handled under the rules of the House, only by that committee.

The report that there are divided counsels in Congress on the subject of the foreign policy of the government is being made industriously in foreign capitals. I believe that report to be false, but so long as it is anywhere credited it cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risks. I therefore feel justified in asking that your committee will please take up this matter early and vote upon the resolutions with regard to travel on armed merchantmen which have recently been so much talked about, in order that there may be afforded an immediate opportunity for full public discussion and action upon them and that all doubts and misapprehensions may be cleared and our foreign relations once more cleared of damaging misunderstandings.

"The matter is of so grave importance and lies so clearly within the field of executive initiative that I venture to hope that your committee will not think that I am asking unwarranted liberty in making this suggestion as to the business of the House, and I very earnestly commend it to their immediate consideration.

"Cordially and sincerely yours, WOODROW WILSON."

PROMPT ACTION DESIRED.

This course was decided on after the day's cabinet meeting and after a week's quiet steady work at the Capitol. The committee is desired to act promptly in making this suggestion as to the business of the House, and I very earnestly commend it to their immediate consideration.

DR. LORENZO SEARS DEAD AT PROVIDENCE

Former Professor of Rhetoric in the University of Vermont.

Providence, R. I., Feb. 25.—Dr. Lorenzo Sears, author of many books on American literature, died at his home here to-day. He formerly was professor of rhetoric in the University of Vermont and later from 1890 until he retired in 1906, held professorships in Brown University.

300 METHODISTS ILL AFTER CHURCH BANQUET

San Francisco, Feb. 25.—Three hundred or more guests were made ill, probably by eating ice cream, at a Methodist banquet February 22. It became known today following an official report of the incident to the Methodist ministers' association. All of those made ill recovered within two days.

There was no thought among those in charge that there was any deliberate attempt to poison the food. It was agreed that some unwholesome ingredient had been used unwittingly in the ice cream.

FIFTEEN MEN KILLED IN MINE EXPLOSION

Rempton, W. Va., Feb. 25.—Fifteen men were killed and five seriously injured by an explosion of dust in mine No. 42 of the Davis Coal and Coke company here to-day. All the victims were foremen. Fifty-one miners were rescued. The explosion of the workings was completed late to-day and all the bodies recovered.

The explosion occurred this morning shortly after the men had entered the mine. The blast, however, did not interfere with the working of the cages in the main shaft and the men went on within range of the explosion hurried to the foot of the shaft and were at once brought to the surface. Rescue parties composed of miners from neighboring mines were hastily organized.

WILL TAKE COUNTRY'S BUSINESS PULSE

Washington, Feb. 25.—The federal trade commission to-day began an inquiry to determine which division of the country's industries are profitable and which offer little money making possibilities. Letters went to 26000 corporations asking them to submit information on which a report will be based.

PRISONERS TAKEN AT ERZERUM WERE EXACTLY 12,988

Which Included 235 Officers According to the Russian Official Report Which Has Been Made Public.

ARMY CORPS SHATTERED

Russian General Staff Announces That Erzerum Was the Only Fortified Point in the Interior of Asia Minor Protecting Western Armenia.

Petersburg, Feb. 25, via London, March 1, 1916, n.—The following official communication from the general headquarters was issued to-day:

"Western (Russian) front: In the Dyvinsk region, near the village of Garinovskaya and north of the Ponskessk railroad, our troops drove back the Germans and made a night advance. Between Lakes Izen and Medvedov and to the south the German later, in several ranks advanced against our trenches, but recoiled before our heavy fire.

"On the Black Sea one of our destroyers dispersed by its fire a convoy which was proceeding along the coast road.

"Caucasus front: The Turkish communication of the 21st states that the retreat of the Turkish army from Erzerum toward positions west of the fortress was effected without loss and that the Turkish abandoned in the fortress only 50 old guns they could not remove. At the same time Turkish headquarters denies statements alleged to have been disseminated by the Russians of the capture in Erzerum of 100 guns and 3000 prisoners. The same Turkish communication declares that Erzerum was really not a fortress, but merely an open town with fortifications, devoid of any military value.

"In view of these assertions, the Russian general staff announces that the fortress of Erzerum was the only fortified point in the interior of Asia Minor protecting western Armenia and Anatolia and commanding all the best roads of Trans-Caucasia and the interior of Asia Minor. For many years past great improvements have been carried out in the works by the Turks with the assistance of Germans. The terrain in front rendered it naturally strong, while it was covered on the flanks by mountain masses, most difficult of approach and with their passes protected by powerful forts.

"Such was the formidable barrier on the path of our offensive, with enormous defensive advantages on the north-east and east.

"During the five-days' assault the fortress was defended by the Turks with stubbornness, to which the enormous number of dead and frozen bodies gives testimony. The Caucasus army succeeded in surrounding a steep mountain, protected not only by fort, but by wire entanglements and other defenses, and assaulted the fortress after an artillery preparation. The assault on the forts and principal position lasted from February 11 to February 23, inclusive.

"After we had taken the forts on the left flank of the principal Turkish line of defense, extending 40 versts (25 miles), the fate of the forts in the center and on the right flank, and after them on the second line forts and the principal defensive position was decided February 16 after short attacks. These fortifications, which were full of Turkish dead, remained in our possession.

"During the assault on the fortress several Turkish regiments were annihilated or taken prisoner, and all our 150 artillery pieces of various calibre in good condition. In the defense works of the central fortress we took another 120 pieces. In the fortified region of Erzerum we took a large number of storerooms of various kinds, which have been mentioned by the headquarters staff.

"The exact number of Turkish prisoners is 235 officers and 12,753 men.

"It is possible to estimate the force of the blow which we dealt the Turkish army by the fact that some of their army corps of three divisions now number only from three thousand to five thousand men and a few guns. All the remainder have either fallen into our hands or perished in the fighting or from cold.

"The Turkish prisoners captured in Erzerum or in the pursuit complain bitterly that their headquarters staff was concentrated in the hands of the Germans, who during the assault on the fortress were the first to abandon the fortified positions, causing panic and disorder among the already shaken Turkish troops."

ENORMOUS WEALTH OF NEW YORKERS

New York, Feb. 25.—Thirty-two residents of the borough of Manhattan are assessed for \$500,000 or more on personal property alone, according to a report of the tax department made public to-night. John D. Rockefeller leads with an assessment of \$5,000,000. Henry P. Davison of J. P. Morgan & Co., whose name did not appear on the records last year, is rated this year with personal property aggregating \$1,000,000. Abraham Erlanger, theatrical producer, is assessed at \$155,000 whereas his personal property a year ago was listed as worth only \$500. Other names were: John D. Rockefeller, Jr., \$3,000,000; George E. Hart, \$200,000; \$1,000,000; Adolphus S. Hall, \$1,000,000; Jacob H. Schiff, \$1,000,000; \$1,000,000; James Speyer, \$1,000,000; \$1,000,000; and Frederick W. Vanderbilt, \$1,000,000.

ST. LOUIS VOTES TO SEGREGATE NEGROES

St. Louis, Feb. 25.—Official returns from to-day's election show tonight that both of two ordinances proposing segregation of negroes have been carried by a majority of 34,241, the vote being 32,259 for segregation and 17,876 against.

Engineer Is Blamed.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 25.—The failure of William A. Curtis, engineer of extra passenger train No. 5, to observe signals set against him and to obey them was responsible for the running of the train into the rear of the Connecticut river special on the N. Y. N. H. and Hartford road at Milford on February 22, according to the finding of Coroner Mix to-day. In the wreck ten persons lost their lives and more than two score were injured.

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REMARKABLE SKIN GRAFTING.

Des Moines, Iowa, Feb. 25.—A remarkable skin grafting operation lasting five hours and requiring three quarts of blood was performed here to-day. The patient, Roy Adrean, as a result will live. He was conscious throughout the operation. His sister, Billie Adrean, his wife and three friends contributed the skin. Adrean was horribly burned last Saturday when he fell from a fire.

MURDERED BY VILLAS MEN.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The murder of Grover Varn, an American, by Villa forces at his home last night, 25 miles north of Durango, was reported officially to-day to the state department. No other details were given.

CITROLAX CITROLAX

Best thing for constipation, sour stomach, laxative and sluggish bowels. Sticks a stick headache almost at once. Gives a most thorough and satisfactory flushing of the entire system. Keeps your system clean, sweet and wholesome. Ask for CITROLAX, J. W. O'Sullivan, (Adv.)

To say that something is "undetectable"

means that it will sell if the people learn about it. Good real estate is advertised—it is any time!

OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF VERDUN BATTLE BY THE GERMANS

"Most Remarkable Co-operation of All Arms," Declares a Berlin Report, Reviewing Situation.

GUATEMALA IS FRIENDLY

Moral Support of President Cabrera Is Said to Have Been Obtained—Munitions from Guatemala Reported Landed on Mexican Soil.

Tampa, Fla., Feb. 25.—A Mexican physician here said to-day that General Felix Diaz had been in Florida about February 13 and left Key West soon afterward in a small boat for the Thousand Islands, where he was to board a yacht bound for Mexico.

New York, Feb. 25.—General Felix Diaz sailed from New Orleans on February 13 for Tampam, a Gulf of Mexico port in the oil country on a vessel owned by him, according to information obtained to-day by the New York Herald. He is said to have landed at Tampam February 15 and joined a force which was waiting for him in the interior, marching then to Tlaxiaca, Oaxaca, where he has established headquarters.

Diaz has opened a line of communications with the United States and France by way of Guatemala, the Herald says. A close personal friend in this city is named as authority for the statement that Diaz has 3000 men under arms and that part of them are moving against Mexico City, while another force is within striking distance of Jalisco, Vera Cruz.

The moral support of President Cabrera of Guatemala is reported to have been pledged to General Diaz and the assertion is made that munitions of war from Guatemala have been landed on Mexican soil. Diaz agents are said to be negotiating with General Zapata to obtain the support of his forces.

Further activity is reported on the extreme southern German front along the Swiss border, where the recent capture of a French trench improved the German line considerably. Whether the activity here and at other points leads to a general attack, according to Prof. Fritz Taussent-rager, co-director of the Krupp works and inventor of the famous 12-centimetre gun, in an interview with the correspondent of the Tagesschau.

Professor Taussent-rager declares that the day of flat trajectory pieces is past and that mortars and vertical shooting artillery will be in increasing demand. This is because the nature of modern warfare has almost done away with the necessity for shooting horizontally, it being possible to reach horizontal trench lines only by shots from cannon shooting vertically.

Modern artillery, notwithstanding its tremendous strides, he says, has in its way reached the limits of its possibilities, either in effectiveness or in carrying powers. The cannon of the future, he believes, will be able to penetrate the strongest fortifications and nullify "England's" stimulant of the future, the old proud wall which for centuries has protected the continent.

The Krupp firm perfected the 12-centimetre gun years ago, according to Prof. Taussent-rager, but it was only shortly before the outbreak of the war that it was found possible to make these giant cannon independent of railroads and easily transportable.

As for the future, he believes, will differ vastly from those of the present. There have always been fortified boundaries, but even the present day heavy artillery has spoiled them for fortified cities with fort gardens.

The inventor pays his compliments to American ammunition, which he says is infinitely better than that of the Germans, who during the war have shown, he declares, that pressed ammunition is vastly better than cast or moulded ammunition, but points out that special machinery is necessary to make it.

39 UNARMED BRITISH SHIPS WERE TORPEDOED

London Statement about Activity of Enemy Submarines to End of 1915.

London, Feb. 25.—The admiralty to-night made public a list of "unarmed" British vessels torpedoed and sunk by enemy submarines without warning up to the end of 1915. It comprises 39 steamers and one trawler.

A list also was given of neutral vessels said to have been torpedoed in the same period without warning, consisting of 13 steamers and one sailing vessel, of which two, the Guilford and Neoraskan, were American, four Norwegian, four Swedish, one Dutch, one Danish, one Greek and one Portuguese.

New Guntery Record.

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 25.—What is declared to be a world's record for accurate and rapid fire gunnery was made by the armored cruiser San Diego at target practice Friday. It was announced to-day. Number 16 six-inch gun scored eight perfect hits out of eight shots in 12 seconds, firing at a range of 1,800 yards. The crew of number 13 three-inch gun also scored eight bullseyes in 14 seconds, firing at a range of 1,800 yards. Both records were made at night, the sailors picking up the target after it had been illuminated with searchlights.

FELIX DIAZ SAID TO HAVE 30,000 MEN UNDER ARMS

Part of Them Alleged to Be Moving towards Mexico City—Negotiations Opened with Zapata. It Is Claimed.

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SENATOR O'GORMAN TO HEAD BIG DELEGATION

N. Y. Democrats in Harmony—Delegates Unpledged but for Wilson Just the Same.

Syracuse, N. Y., Feb. 25.—Strong endorsement of President Wilson and the recommendation of four delegates at large to the St. Louis convention, not formally pledged but chosen with the understanding that they will work for the renomination and re-election of the President, were the predominant features of the program for tomorrow's informal gathering to-night by leaders of the party.

All of the delegates expressed the hope that the plans would be carried out without serious opposition. This view was voiced heartily by Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, upon his arrival to-night at the head of the New York city delegation.

Three delegates-at-large to the national convention tentatively decided upon are: United States Senator James A. O'Gorman, who is slated to head the delegation; Chairman O'Gorman, and George J. Meyer of Buffalo, a German-American Wilson democrat.

The platform to be adopted will contain a strong endorsement of President Wilson's administration and policies and an endorsement of the President personally. Chairman O'Gorman said to-night.

It also will endorse the democratic policies which have resulted from the action of the President and the democratic Congress. It will be continued. "It will take a strong position on preparedness and will discuss the relations of the United States with Mexico and the warring nations of Europe."

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